

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

OF

ASHTON-IN-MAKERFIELD

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1967

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Medical Officer of Health:

J. H. McP. ROBERTSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspectors:

MR. FRANK BURROWS, Cert. Royal Society of Health
R.S.H., Cert. Meat and other Foods.

MR. DEREK M. BOLD, Cert. Royal Society of Health
R.S.H., Cert. Meat and other Foods.
R.S.H. Smoke Inspectors Diploma.

MR. RONALD DUNNE, R.S.H. Diploma of Public Health Inspectors

Food Inspectors:

Public Health Inspectors as above.

Superintendent of Cleansing Department:

MR. FRANK BURROWS

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1967

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

TOWN HALL,

ASHTON-IN-MAKERFIELD.

To the Chairman and Members of the Ashton-in-Makerfield

Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of submitting to you the Annual Report on the health of the District for the year 1967.

As in previous years it has been compiled in accordance with instructions from the Ministry of Health.

Introduction

The district is bounded by the Urban Districts of Abram, Billinge, Golborne and Haydock and the County Boroughs of Wigan and St. Helens.

Geologically the area is of coal and red sandstone and is approximately 6,265 acres.

Social Conditions

The population at the 1961 census was 19,260 and is now 23,350 (mid-1967), the density of population being slightly more than 3·5 per acre. Coal mining has practically ceased but some light industry has moved into the district. Agriculture, textile weaving, rayon and iron and steel manufacture give employment to many of the population but there is still a need for additional industry to be introduced into the area.

The rateable value of property in the Urban District is £602,480 and a penny Rate yields £2,406.

The District is part of No. 8 Division of the Lancashire County Council who organise Child Welfare, Ante-Natal and School Clinics.

Child Welfare Clinics

No. of Sessions.....	104		
No. of Individual Children attended and born in	1967	1966	1962-65
	365	330	256
No. of attendances at ages	0 -	1 -	2-4 incl.
	4,616	694	245

Ante-Natal Clinics

No. of Sessions	41
No. of Individual Women attending.....	129
No. of Attendances	320

Post-Natal Clinics

No. of Sessions	12
No. of Individual Women attending.....	43
No. of Attendances	43

Sanitary Circumstances

The Makerfield Water Board supervise the distribution of water, largely purchased from Liverpool Corporation, to 8,464 houses by mains supply. The Board reported the taking of 144 water samples in the district and found them all to be bacteriologically satisfactory. No chemical reports have been received.

The number of houses now on the water-carriage disposal system is 8,400. House refuse is collected in approximately 9,242 bins and disposed of by Controlled Tipping.

Vital Statistics

Estimated mid-year home population 23,350

Comparability factors: Births 0.95

Deaths 1.20

Live Births	Male	Female
Legitimate	275	250
Illegitimate	8	8
Total	283	258
Still Births		
Legitimate	5	4
Illegitimate	Nil	1
Total	5	5
Deaths—infants under 1 year of age		
Legitimate	3	5
Illegitimate	Nil	Nil
Total	3	5
Deaths—infants under four weeks of age		
Legitimate	1	5
Illegitimate	Nil	Nil
Total	1	5
Deaths—infants under one week of age		
Legitimate	1	4
Illegitimate	Nil	Nil
Total	1	4
Mortality rates per 1,000 estimated population		
Total (all forms)		
Crude rate	12.1	
Adjusted rate	14.5	
Respiratory T.B.....	0.04	
Malignant neoplasms, etc.	1.84	
Live Birth Rates per 1,000 estimated population		
Crude rate	23.2	
Adjusted rate	22	
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total births	18	
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 total births	Nil	
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	15	
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births.....	11	
Early neo-natal mortality rates per 1,000 live births	9	
Perinatal mortality rate per 1,000 total births	27	

Cause of Death	Sex	Total All ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	Age in years					65- 75 and over
					1-4	5-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	
Tuberculosis, Respiratory.....	M	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	M	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	M	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	F	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	M	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
	F	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	F	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	M	7	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2
	F	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Leukæmia, Aleukæmia	M	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diabetes	M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	F	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	M	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
	F	24	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Coronary Disease, Angina	M	33	...	...	...	...	...	3	4	5
	F	19	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3
Hypertension with Heart Disease	M	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	F	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Heart Disease	M	16	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
	F	28	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Other Circulatory Disease	M	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0

Infectious Disease

There was no epidemic disease during the year.

Cases notified

Scarlet Fever	23
Whooping Cough	5
Measles	303
Tuberculosis—respiratory ...	10
Tuberculosis other	Nil

Immunisations and Vaccinations

Children protected against :—

	Primary		Re-inforcement	
	0 - 4	5-15	0 - 4	5-15
Diphtheria	490	51	284	862
Whooping Cough	486	9	282	71
Tetanus	490	49	284	835
Poliomyelitis	445	21	50	303
Smallpox Vaccination ...	197	24	2	25

In this my first year of office, I wish to express my gratitude for the assistance and co-operation received from the Officers of the Council and particularly to Mr. Burrows, Public Health Inspector, for his unfailing support.

I also respectfully wish to offer to Members of the Council my appreciation for the courtesy and encouragement given to me at all times.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

J. H. M. ROBERTSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1967

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
TOWN HALL,
ASHTON-IN-MAKERFIELD,

*To the Chairman and Members of the Ashton-in-Makerfield
Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I submit for your consideration a report on the work carried out in the year 1967 in the Public Health Department.

This year was the first, for a considerable time, when the department was fully staffed, and a large amount of outstanding work received attention.

The district continues to grow and in 1967 the number of new dwellings erected by private development was 475, while the estimated population increase was 1,050.

I regret that the Local Authority was unable to erect any dwellings although schemes were in hand for the erection of 149 units of accommodation at the Low Bank Road Estate, and for 24 self-contained flatlets for aged persons, with Warden's accommodation, at Whitledge Green.

The range of duties coming within the purview of the department expands each year and it is necessary for your officers to keep themselves conversant with the new legislation issued from month to month.

Summary of Visits and Inspections

Houses and premises visited during routine inspections	
re nuisances and complaints	2,838
Nuisances discovered	1,750
Nuisances abated	1,685
Re-visits re nuisances	1,601
Visits re infectious disease	36
Re-visits re infectious disease	8
Visits to factories	175
Visits to premises where food is prepared or exposed for sale	441
Visits to Food Delivery Vehicles	47
Food Factory.....	127
Visits to dairies	25
Visits to Shops (Shops and Public Health Acts)	442
Notices served (Preliminary)	752
Notices served (Statutory)	45
Legal Proceedings	Nil
Court Abatement Orders made	Nil
Letters sent	1,080

Description of Nuisances dealt with

Defective and damp walls	207
roofs	201
eaves-gutters and rain-water pipes	209
floors	30
sinks	10
wastepipes	21
plasterwork	200
windows	190
doors and frames.....	51
staircases	2
chimneys and stacks	40
ventilating shafts.....	6
paving in yards and passages	15
washing boilers	1
w.c. cisterns	41
w.c. basins	32
w.c. supply pipes	67
w.c. structures.....	43
Choked or defective drains and drainage systems	184
Water under floors	40
Accumulation of refuse, etc.	32
Foul Odours	19
Filthy or verminous premises	15
Insufficient water supplies	18
Insufficient lighting	14
Noise Nuisances	8
Clean Air Act Infringements	11
Overcrowding	2
Miscellaneous	41

Housing and Slum Clearance Programme

During the year 50 houses were represented to the Council as being unfit for human habitation and not capable of being repaired at reasonable expense.

Twenty-nine families were rehoused from houses dealt with as Individual Unfit Houses. Twenty-three houses were demolished and three closed. The number of persons involved was 67.

I regret that the rents of Council houses continue to rise and in my opinion real hardship is caused when tenants of condemned houses on low rents have to face increases of this nature.

Housing Statistics

1. Number of dwellings erected during the year :—

	Houses	Bungalows
(i) By the local authority	Nil	Nil
(ii) By other local authorities... ..	Nil	Nil
(iii) By other bodies or persons	213	262

2. Number of Council-owned dwellings at end of the year 1,811

3. Inspections of dwelling-houses during the year :—

	Houses
(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts). Includes Slum Clearance Survey under Ministry of Housing and Local Government Circular 2/60	380
(b) Number of inspections, formal or informal made for the purpose	755
(c) Number of dwelling-houses in (a) above found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit	136
(2) Total number of dwelling-houses existing at end of year which were unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit and in respect of which—	
(a) Demolition, Clearance or Closing Orders have been made. (At any time).....	84
(b) Demolition, Clearance or Closing Orders have not yet been made.....	222

4. Houses demolished :—

In Clearance Areas

	Houses Demolished	Displaced during year Persons	Families
(1) Houses unfit for human habitation...	Nil	Nil	Nil
(2) Houses included by reason of bad arrangement, etc.	—	—	—
(3) Houses on land acquired under Sec. 43 (2), Housing Act, 1957	—	—	—

Not in Clearance Areas

	Houses Demolished	Displaced during year	
		Persons	Families
(4) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17 (1) Housing Act, 1957	23	60	26
(5) Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health	—	—	—
(6) Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under local Acts	—	—	—
(7) Unfit houses included in unfitness Orders	—	—	—

5. Unfit Houses Closed :—

	Number	Displaced during year	
		Persons	Families
(1) Under Sections 16 (4), 17 (1) and 35 (1), Housing Act, 1957	3	7	3
(2) Under Sections 17 (3), and 26, Housing Act, 1957.....	—	—	—
(3) Parts of buildings closed under Section 18, Housing Act, 1957.....	—	—	—

6. Unfit Houses made Fit and Houses in which Defects were Remedied :—

	By Owner	By Local Authority
(1) After informal action by local authority	71	Nil
(2) After formal notice under (a) Public Health Acts (b) Sections 9 and 16, Housing Act, 1957	19	Nil
(3) Under Section 24, Housing Act, 1957	Nil	Nil

7. Unfit Houses in Temporary Use (Housing Act, 1957)

Position at end of year :—

(1) Retained for temporary accommodation

	Number of Houses	Number of separate dwellings contained in column (1)
(a) Under Section 48	—	—
(b) Under Section 17 (2).....	—	—
(c) Under Section 46	—	—
(2) Licensed for temporary occupation under Sections 34 or 53	—	—

8. Purchase of Houses by Agreement :—

Number of houses

Houses in Clearance Areas other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders, purchased during the year

—

9. Housing Act 1949 and Housing (Financial Provisions) Act 1958—
Improvement grants etc.

Action during year :—

Private bodies
or individuals

Local
Authority

(a) Submitted by private individuals to local authority.....

—

—

(b) Approved by local authority

—

—

(c) Submitted by local authority to Ministry

—

—

(d) Finally approved by Ministry

—

—

(e) Work completed.....

—

—

(f) Additional separate dwellings included in (e) above

—

—

(g) Any other action under the Acts: Nil

10. House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959, Housing Acts, 1961 and 1964—Standard Grants :—

No. of dwellings or other
buildings affected

(a) Applications submitted to local authority for improvement to full standard

57

(b) Applications approved by local authority for improvement to reduced standard

Nil

(c) Total applications approved by local authority for improvements to :

(a) full standard

56

(b) reduced standard

Nil

(d) Work completed.....

62

As can be seen, there was an increase in the number of grants completed during the year, but landlords are still not taking advantage of the grants offered. The total number of dwellings improved since 1959 is now 402.

The amenities provided were:—

Fixed baths	56
Showers	Nil
Wash Hand basins.....	60
Hot Water supply (to any fittings) ...	165
Water Closets within dwellings	60
Food Stores.....	59

The total amount paid in grants was £8,688 4s. 10d. an average of £140 2s. 8d. per house.

Rent Act, 1957

There were no applications for Certificates of Disrepair or any undertakings to carry out repairs during the year.

Inspection and Supervision of Food and Food Premises

The inspection of premises where food is prepared, stored and sold was intensified during the year to ensure that the provisions of the various Acts, Regulations and Byelaws relating to the storage, handling, wrapping and delivery of food are observed. It is necessary at all times to impress on the occupiers, owners and staff the need for maintaining the highest possible standards of hygiene, but I am pleased to state that generally the standard in these premises is high.

Food delivery vehicles received special attention and warnings were given in a number of instances when it was found that there had been neglect in keeping the internal surfaces and floors clean. Complaints were received from members of the public regarding foreign bodies in foodstuffs and these were dealt with by informal warnings to the manufacturers.

I am pleased to state that the toilet and washing facilities on the open market are to be improved. These amenities are to be provided as soon as possible thus affording a service to the stall-holders which I have advocated for a considerable number of years.

The inspection of meat, offals and food by-products at the food factory was continued and 127 visits were made. This work is vitally important, as food is despatched to numerous school kitchens, shops, hotels and institutions in various parts of the country.

As an added precaution, meat, hand, and sewer swabs were taken, together with sample meat specimens. The results received were as follows :—

Hand swabs	20	negative
Table swabs	8	negative
Table swabs	2	positive
Sewer swabs	4	negative
Meat surface swabs ...	7	negative
Meat surface swab ...	1	positive
Meat specimens.....	7	negative
Meat specimens.....	1	positive
Canned meat	5	sterile (satisfactory)

It was established that the positive sample results were of meat contaminated before entry into the factory. Details of the sample results were reported to the appropriate officer of the authority in whose area the slaughter-house was situated.

Type of Business	No.
General Grocers and provision dealers	103
Greengrocers and fruiterers (including those selling wet fish, game, etc.)	15
Fishmongers (including those selling poultry, game, etc.).....	7
Meat shops (butchers, purveyors of cooked and preserved meats, tripe, etc.)	17
Bakers and/or confectioners.....	13
Fried Fish shops	17
Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice cream, etc.....	30
Licensed premises, clubs, cauteens, restaurants, cafes, snack bars and similar catering establishments	76
Others.....	60

The following table gives the type and number of premises registered under the provisions of the Lancashire County Council (Rivers Board and General Powers) Act, 1938, Sections 115 and 116.

Sale of Ice Cream.....	65
Manufacturers of Cooked Meat and Sausages	10
Storage of Meat sold from vehicles	3
Storage of Fish sold from vehicles.....	4
Storage of Fruit and vegetables sold from vehicles.....	9

Food Condemned

574 lbs. Ham	1 tin Rice
48 lbs. Lamb	2 tins Apricot Halves
960 lbs. Boneless Ewe	3 tins Pilchards
72 lbs. Lambs' Liver	7 tins Peaches
12 lbs. Mincemeat	6 tins Fruit Cocktail
2404½ lbs. Beef Trimmings	2 tins Milk Top
2578 lbs. Mutton Legs	2 tins Spaghetti
78 lbs. Pork Loins	5 tins Dairy Cream
12 lbs. Shoulders of Mutton	1 tin Chopped Pork
17 lbs. Raw Ham	5 tins Evaporated Milk
740 lbs. Boneless Beef	5 tins Corned Beef
413 lbs. Legs of Pork	2 tins Chicken Soup
66 lbs. Fat	87 tins Cooked Pork
997 lbs. Breast of Lamb and Mutton	8 tins Salmon
500 lbs. Skinless Pork Sausage	6 tins Soup
6 stone Haddock	4 tins Sardines
55 tins Pears	39 tins Blackcurrants
52 tins Peas	14 tins Ox Tongue
1 tin Plums	16 tins Stewed Steak
5 tins Luncheon Meat	9 tins Pineapple Cubes
4 tins Pork and Ham	5 tins Beans and Tomato
58 tins Grapefruit Sections	2 tins Minced Chicken
33 tins Tomatoes	6 tins Carrots
12 tins Oranges	2 tins Strawberries
1 tin Chicken	1 tin Apples
2 tins Baby Beetroot	1 tin Fruit Salad
1 tin Piccalilli	1 tin Shrimps
1 tin Raspberry Jam	4 tins Potatoes
17 tins Beans	1 tin Apricot Jam
13 tins Rice Pudding	1 tin Semolina
55 tins Grapefruit	1 tin Creamed Rice
1 tin Steak and Kidney	3 tins Stew
1 tin Roast Pork	2 tins Steak and Vegetables
1 tin Fruit Pudding	1 tin Macaroni
2 tins Lunch Tongue	1 tin Raspberries
1 tin Pork Shoulder	6 tins Tuna
1 tin Unsweetened Milk	

Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959

There are seven dairy farms producing milk within the district in addition to seven registered dairies.

Visits have been paid to all these premises in addition to shops from which sterilised milk is sold. The results of milk samples taken are as follows :—

Biological Test (Tuberculosis) ...	22
Negative	22
Positive	Nil
Phosphatase Test	18
Satisfactory.....	18
Unsatisfactory	Nil
Methylene Blue Test	18
Satisfactory.....	18
Unsatisfactory	Nil
Turbidity Test	8
Satisfactory.....	8
Unsatisfactory	Nil

Brucellosis

RING TEST	
Negative	133
Positive	42
CULTURE TEST	
Negative	30
Positive	12
BIOLOGICAL TEST	
Negative	3
Positive	Nil

The Milk (Special Designation) (Specified Areas) No. 3 Order is operative in the Urban District and only designated milk may be sold in sealed bottles or containers.

Ice Cream

There are 63 premises registered under Sections 115 and 116 of the Lancashire County Council (Rivers Board and General Powers) Act for the sale of ice cream.

There is one manufacturer of heat-treated ice cream in the district and his premises are inspected regularly. These premises are modern and a high standard of cleanliness is maintained both in the buildings and with the fleet of vehicles which operates over a large area in Lancashire. Fifty-eight samples were taken during the year, the results being as follows :—

	Produced outside district	Produced within district
Provisional Grade I	33	18
Provisional Grade II.....	1	1
Provisional Grade III	Nil	1
Provisional Grade IV	Nil	2
Void .....	.....	2

Ice Lollies

Twenty samples were taken, all being satisfactory.

Licensed Premises

Within the district there are 29 public houses, eight out-door licences and 17 clubs. Although the standard of cleanliness is high and the proprietors are aware that the customers are entitled to hygienic and comfortable conditions there is room for improvement in many of the public houses in relation to the sanitary conveniences. In some instances it is necessary to approach the toilets by uncovered passages and yards and this, especially in the winter months, can be a discomfort to the patrons.

Contact has been made with the owners and I hope that conditions will improve in the very near future. The owners state that the delay is due to excessive building costs and the shortage of money at the present time, but if these improvements are not carried out I am of the opinion that their customers will seek more congenial drinking quarters.

Pet Animals Act, 1951

There are only two shops licensed for keeping and sale of pets. The occupiers are fully aware of the requirements of the Act and there has been no cause for complaint.

Petroleum (Regulations) Acts

Strict supervision of petrol storage stations has been maintained and all new installations have been subjected to the 10-lbs. per square inch pressure test over a 24-hour period. The codes of practice issued by the Home Office have been adhered to and there have been no infringements of the Acts or Regulations.

The fees received from the owners of the 42 licensed premises amounted to £35 15s. 0d.

Public Cleansing

The collection of refuse on a weekly basis was continued throughout the year except during the annual holiday week when only the business premises were dealt with. The high standard of previous years was maintained and complaints were relatively few. The bonus scheme has been continued and the employees are now receiving a higher rate of pay. The consultants expressed the opinion that the scheme would reduce absenteeism and sickness but this has not been the case. I must express my thanks to the employees who attended regularly and improved their performance to ensure that all the bins were collected at the regular time.

The vehicles engaged in refuse collection were as follows:—

Two 18 cubic yard capacity, dual tip rear loading Karriers.

One 7 cubic yard capacity side loading Bedford.

One 18/24 cubic yard capacity Karrier compression loader.

One 18/24 cubic yard capacity Harrison Gibson compression loader (second-hand).

One converted pail van is used for bulk refuse collection and a 600 gallon Dennis gully emptier is used for pail collection.

One box type (Salvage) van was purchased half-way through the year for the collection of waste-paper salvage from shops, offices, industry and the refuse collection trailers.

The Carr Mill refuse tip is proving to be a valuable site for the disposal of refuse and, although there has been little cause for complaint, firing of the tip has been a problem. It is fired by persons who frequent the tip in search of non-ferreous metals which are more accessible when the other rubbish has been burned. These persons remove the covering material and expend considerable energy for what, in my opinion, must be very meagre rewards.

A Bray 530 mechanical shovel was ordered and delivered in October and has proved invaluable in the operation of controlled tipping methods employed at the Carr Mill tip.

Civic Amenities Act, 1967

Reports were submitted to the Public Health Committee on the provisions of this Act with special reference to Part III dealing with the disposal of abandoned vehicles and other refuse. Prior to this Act there has been virtually no legislation dealing effectively with the dumping of rubbish and abandoned vehicles. When the Act is in operation the cost of this cleansing service will be considerable but it is necessary to remove the objectionable and unsightly rubbish now littering many parts of the district.

Dustbin Provision Scheme

The Municipal Dustbin Scheme is operated under the provisions of Section 75/3 of the Public Health Act, 1936. 475 bins were delivered to new dwellings, whilst 273 were issued to replace defective bins at other premises.

Statistics

Number of pail closets at end of 1966 (approximately)		89
Less number converted	12	
Less number demolished	10	22
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total number of pail closets at end of 1967		67
Number of water closets at end of 1966 (approximately)		
including troughs and waste-water.....		8,940
Number of conversions.....		12
Number of fresh-water closets at new dwellings ...		475
Number of extra water closets erected		52
		<hr/>
		9,479
Number of water closets demolished		16
		<hr/>
Number of water closets at end of 1967		9,463
Number of waste-water closets included above		13

Number of movable dustbins at end of 1966 (approx.)	8,572
Number of new dwellings	475
Bins provided at other premises.....	221
	<hr/>
Number of bins at properties demolished and closed ...	9,268
	<hr/>
Number of movable ashbins at 31st December, 1967...	9,242
	<hr/>

Salvage of Waste Paper

The amount of waste paper collected and disposed of was 240 tons 0 cwt. 2 qrs. The income from the sale amounted to £2,047 7s. 11d.

A 5 h.p. 3 cwt. waste paper baling machine was ordered in October, but due to delivery difficulties and the installation work required it was not operative at the end of the year.

Trade Refuse

A charge of 6d. per bin per week is made for the collection of refuse from trade premises. The sum of £177 0s. 3d. was received for this service.

Factories Acts 1937 and 1961

Number of factories on register: 140

		<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Written Notices</i>
With mechanical power	110	142	—
Without mechanical power	18	21	5
Other premises (not outworkers)...	12	12	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	140	175	5
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Defects Found

	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>
Insufficient and unsuitable closet accommodation	9	9
Want of cleanliness	2	2
Other offences.....	2	2
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	13	13
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Registered Premises

Cafes and Snack Bars	...	...	...	...	...	5
Bakers and confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	12
Plumbers	...	...	...	...	...	10
Builders	...	...	...	...	...	17
Motor and cycle repairers	...	...	...	...	...	23
Smiths	...	...	...	...	...	2
Painters	...	...	...	...	...	9
Clothing manufacturers	...	...	...	...	...	2
Saddlers	...	...	...	...	...	1
Corrugated Board Containers	...	...	...	...	...	1
Wholesale Warehouses	...	...	...	...	...	1
Lock and hinge manufacturers	...	...	...	...	...	3
Laundries	...	...	...	...	...	2
Printers	...	...	...	...	...	1
Basket makers	...	...	...	...	...	1
Dental mechanics	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cabinet makers and Upholsterers...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Mineral water manufacturers and bottlers	...	...	...	...	...	2
Ice cream manufacturers	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sausage makers	...	...	...	...	...	8
Scrap metal dealers	...	...	...	...	...	3
Cattle Food Preparation	...	...	...	...	...	1
Demolition contractors	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cotton weavers	...	...	...	...	...	1
Boot, shoe repairers	...	...	...	...	...	3
Gas holders	...	...	...	...	...	1
Electricians	...	...	...	...	...	9
Agricultural machinery repairers	...	...	...	...	...	2
Saw mills	...	...	...	...	...	5
Food preparation	...	...	...	...	...	1
General Engineering	...	...	...	...	...	8

140

Section 110

There was only one outworker resident in the district employed by a firm carrying on business outside this area.

Other Matters

Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories	1
Notified by H.M. Inspector of Factories	1

Smoke Abatement—Clean Air Act, 1956

Observations were made of the chimneys used at industrial establishments in the district but there were no infringements of the Act. As in previous years, there has been good co-operation with the management of the larger factories to ensure that the emission of dark smoke is prevented. The supervision and inspection of old colliery spoilbanks was maintained and it was necessary at two sites for work to be carried out to reduce the emission of smoke and fumes.

Three notifications were received during the year in respect of the installation of furnaces having a heating capacity of more than 55,000 British Thermal Units per hour as required by Section 3 of the Act. Under the provisions of Section 10 of the Act the chimney heights of these three heating installations were calculated in accordance with the Ministry of Housing and Local Government Memorandum on Chimney Heights.

No progress was made in relation to the making of Smoke Control areas owing to the financial involvements, but there is a general trend in the district to install approved smokeless fuel appliances in both existing and new dwellings.

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960

Movable Dwellings

The problem of caravan dwellers occupying sites in the area was reduced during the year compared with 1966 but it was still necessary to prevent these persons from staying on unlicensed sites in various parts of the district. There are no licensed sites available in the area.

Infectious Disease and Disinfection

Thirty-six houses were disinfected during the year following the notification of infectious disease. Only certain infectious diseases are investigated, the object being to trace the source of infection, but in the majority of cases there seems to be no obvious connection. Library books are disinfected, while those of small value are destroyed by arrangement with the Librarian

Disinfestation

The number and type of infestation dealt with was as follows:—

Council houses	62	Other houses	100
----------------------	----	--------------------	-----

The houses were treated for the following infestations:—

Cockroaches	42	Ants	64
Bugs	8	Bees	2
Flies	18	Beetles	6
Earwigs	5	Wood-boring Wasp	1
Lice	1	Wasps	5
Silverfish	9	Crickets	1

All houses are inspected prior to the occupants being rehoused in Council dwellings and disinfestation is carried out as necessary.

Rodent Control

After a period of twelve months without the services of a rodent operator, one was appointed on the 26th June. In addition to routine work following complaints of infestations, sewers, the refuse tip, the sewage works and other local authority properties were treated. Sixteen manholes showed evidence of infestation when the sewers were treated with oiled warfarin sewer bait.

A charge is made for treatments carried out at business premises, while domestic premises are treated free of charge. The infestation of newly-erected dwellings still continues, due mainly to lack of thought by the tradesmen engaged in their erection.

The annual report submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food is as follows :—

		Type of Property	
		Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
1.	Number of properties in district	9,381	54
2.	(a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	609	—
	(b) Number infested by (i) Rats	211	—
	(ii) Mice	239	—
3.	(a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	87	—
	(b) Number infested by (i) Rats	40	—
	(ii) Mice	29	—

Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956

It is the duty of employers of labour on agricultural units to provide suitable and sufficient sanitary conveniences and to keep them in a clean and satisfactory condition. Visits were made to all the farms in the area to ensure that the provisions of the Act were complied with both for permanent and temporary employees.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

It was possible to increase the number of inspections made to registered premises during the year. The Act was introduced to ensure that the health of persons employed in offices, shops, warehouses, catering establishments and canteens is not impaired due to unsuitable premises and working conditions.

Employers are required to notify all accidents to employees if, as a result of the accident, the employee is absent from work for more than three days. Four such accidents were reported and each was investigated.

The following information is taken from the Annual Report made to the Minister of Labour in accordance with the provisions of Section 60 of the Act.

Class of Work Place	No. of Registered Premises at end of year	No. of persons in such premises
Offices	21	196
Retail shops.....	75	256
Wholesale shops, warehouses.....	1	9
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	15	63
Fuel storage depots	Nil	Nil

Total 112

Males: 209 Females: 315

Number of general inspections carried out	52
Number of visits of all kinds made	102
Number of notices served re contraventions ..	14
Number of exemptions granted.....	Nil
Number of prosecutions.....	Nil

Public Conveniences

The public conveniences have been well maintained by the attendants but much of their effort is wasted due to the action by misguided individuals, both male and female. Considerable damage to fixtures and fittings has again been prevalent and fouling of walls and floors is common. The high cost of repairs due to damage, is a most serious matter, and is unfair to the ratepayers of the district.

Noise Abatement Act, 1960

Investigations were made in connection with eight complaints of alleged noise nuisances, the major portion being of industrial origin. This type of complaint is most difficult to deal with unless the findings are supported by data obtained by the use of sound-level recording instruments. At the end of the year the investigations had not been concluded.

Hairdressers and Barbers

There has been a gradual improvement over the last few years in the standards of hygiene in hairdressers' premises and equipment due to the enforcement of byelaws which were made in December, 1962. There are 20 such establishments in the district and 33 visits were made during the year.

Scrap Metal Dealers Act, 1964—Section 6

This section of the Act requires dealers in scrap metal and marine store dealers to register with the local authority in whose district their premises are situated. Their trading records must be made available for inspection by the Council's authorised officers.

There is one dealer and two itinerant collectors registered with the Council.

Food and Drugs Act

The County Medical Officer of Health has supplied the following details of samples taken by County Sampling Officers. The County Council is the Authority responsible for the sampling of food and drugs within the district.

A total of 110 samples was obtained comprising 57 milks (of which six were Channel Island milk) and 53 others as follows:—

3 Margarine	1 Benadryl Elixir
1 Self Raising Flour	7 Tea
1 Lard	4 Ice Cream
4 Fruit Curd	2 Choc Ice
2 Liquid Paraffin B.P.	1 Shin Beef
1 Anadin Tablets	1 Skirt Beef
3 Tapioca	1 Minced Beef
3 Semolina	1 Topside Beef
1 Tincture of Iodine B.P.	1 Beer, Canned
1 Gelatine	2 Cornflour
1 Gravy Browning	1 Syrup
1 White Pepper	2 Ground Mixed Spice
1 Camphorated Oil	3 Flavouring Material
1 Lobak Tablets	2 Meat Pies

I give below details of those samples on which the County Analyst gave adverse reports:—

<i>Sample</i>	<i>Result of Analysis</i>	<i>Action taken</i>
Benadryl Elixir	Form of cautionary wording was not that currently required for preparations of Diphenhydramine. Should read "Caution" "This may cause drowsiness. If affected do not drive or operate machinery.	Vendor cautioned
Meat Pies	Weight of pies $5\frac{2}{3}$ oz. each. Meat content was only 18.7% corresponding to 1.06 oz. of meat per pie. Pies weighing between $5\frac{1}{2}$ and 7 ozs. will be required to contain 25% meat or not less than $1\frac{1}{2}$ oz. of meat per pie.	Vendor interviewed

In conclusion I must express my thanks to the Chairman and members of the Sanitary and Health Committee for their co-operation during the year, to the Medical Officer of Health and to the staff of the Public Health Department for ready assistance given at all times, and to all other colleagues in the Council's service for help and friendly co-operation.

Yours faithfully,

F. BURROWS,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

LANE & CO.
ASHTON-IN-MAKERFIELD

